

Proposed claim amendments

25. (Currently amended) An automated method of evaluating proximity of a second contour correspondent to a template contour provided by a database containing templates of determined objects to be recognized, to a first contour extracted from an image, comprising:

determining points of the second contour that are each univocally paired with one point of the first contour according to a pointwise pairing step comprising:

a step of associating each point of the first contour with a point of the second contour determined as the closest, resulting for each point of the second contour, in a set of points of 0, 1 or n points of the first contour, that is associated with, then

a step of univocally pairing each point of the second contour with one point of the first contour if said one point of the first contour exists, by determining from among said set of points of the first contour, the point of the first contour which is the closest to said point of the second contour, and

evaluating the proximity of said second contour to said first contour as a function of a proximity measure of each of said determined points of the second contour, with the one point of said first contour to which it is univocally paired. The method as claimed in claim 20,

wherein the associating step uses a chamfer map of the second contour via which, at each point of the first contour with coordinates x and y applied as input, said map provides as output an identification of the point of the associated second contour and a measure of the proximity between the two points thus associated.

39. (Currently amended) An automated method of identification of targets in an image, comprising

applying an automated method of evaluating measurement of proximity of a second contour to a first contour, as claimed in claim 20, wherein the method of evaluating comprising:

determining points of the second contour that are each univocally paired with one point of the first contour according to a pointwise pairing step comprising:

a step of associating each point of the first contour with a point of the second contour determined as the closest, resulting for each point of the second contour, in a set of points of 0, 1 or n points of the first contour, that is associated with, then

a step of univocally pairing each point of the second contour with one point of the first contour if said one point of the first contour exists, by determining from among said set of points of the first contour, the point of the first contour which is the closest to said point of the second contour, and

evaluating the proximity of said second contour to said first contour as a function of a proximity measure of each of said determined points of the second contour, with the one point of said first contour to which it is univocally paired,

the identification method further comprising an allocation of a local score of proximity  $N(M_i)$  to each point  $M_i$  of the second contour as a function of a measure of proximity of this point  $M_i$  to the first contour, which has a value lying between 0 and 1, which is equal to zero if it is paired to zero points of the first contour, and if it is paired to one point of the image contour, which is equal to a value that is a smallest ~~the smaller the larger~~ the distance between the two paired points.

**Note:**

Allowable claims 25 and 39 are amended by including the limitations of base claim 20. The limitation "so that the points of said second contour that could not be paired according to said pointwise pairing step have a zero contribution in said evaluation," recited in claim 20 is not incorporated into claims 25 and 39.